



United States
**Office of
 Personnel Management**

Washington, D.C. 20415

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MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

For over a hundred years the American Red Cross has provided assistance to victims of tragic disasters. Not only has the American Red Cross provided disaster relief in our own country but, over the years, has come to the aid of people in countries throughout the world.

On January 6, 1985, the American Red Cross is launching a nationwide \$5 million campaign as part of a \$37 million worldwide campaign effort of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to provide disaster relief to millions of people in Africa who face death from starvation because of a severe and prolonged drought that has caused the worst famine in this century.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is coordinating intensive relief operations with other government and international agencies in Ethiopia, the most hard hit, and 11 other of the most severely affected countries. The American Red Cross is targeting its aid to the most vulnerable: nursing mothers, children and the elderly.

Federal employees and members of the armed forces have always responded when they know the need is great. We would appreciate it if you would inform employees in your installations worldwide of the American Red Cross campaign for African Famine Relief and, when contacted by a Red Cross representative, you would support a campaign for emergency disaster relief at your facilities.

For over a century, the Red Cross symbol has stood as a beacon of hope and help for disaster victims. We in the Federal government have an opportunity to join with others in our communities to support this campaign to bring relief to the many millions who otherwise will die of starvation in Africa.

Donald J. Devine
 Director

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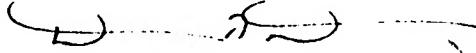
MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

An unprecedented number of disasters has occurred over the past 10 months throughout the width and breadth of this country, completely exhausting disaster relief funds of the American Red Cross. In this 10 month period, the American Red Cross has expended more than \$33 million assisting more than one million disaster victims by providing emergency disaster relief funds for such essentials as food, clothing, shelter, and medical attention.

Unusual weather patterns have brought storms, floods, mud slides, and tornadoes to wide areas of the country. In addition, Hawaii was hit by a major hurricane and California had a serious earthquake. Experts predict that these weather patterns are likely to continue. Heavy snows in the Rockies have created a tremendous potential for flooding and we have entered the tornado season. To meet this anticipated need in the immediate months ahead, the American Red Cross is launching a campaign from May 23 through July 15 to raise \$12 million to replenish its emergency disaster relief fund.

Federal employees and members of the Armed Forces have always responded generously when they know the need is great. We would appreciate it if you would inform employees in your installations world-wide of the special needs of the American Red Cross and, when contacted by a Red Cross representative, you would support a campaign for emergency disaster relief at your facility.

The American Red Cross, with a mandate from Congress, has mobilized its full resources for more than a hundred years to assist victims of tragic disasters. We in the Federal sector have an opportunity to join other members of our communities to support the American Red Cross in this time of need so that it can continue to bring help and hope to disaster victims in the months ahead.


Donald J. Devine
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